

28 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

This memorandum is for information only.

Ernest Lindley has about completed all arrangements for the "firm background" dinner at the Carlton Friday, 2 March.

The group would like, if at all possible, to have you arrive about six o'clock and not later than 6:15 so that all could be seated at 6:30. They are aiming at a 10 o'clock break-up. The reason for this is that there is an all-night rehearsal for the Gridiron and a number of the people are participating. You should leave your office, if possible, at 5:45, and not later than 6:00, in order to meet the schedule.

I will have a complete list tomorrow of those who will attend, but as of now the following will be there:

Scotty Reston, NEW YORK TIMES
Bill Lawrence, NEW YORK TIMES
James Shepley, TIME magazine
Lyle Wilson, United Press
Arthur Hermann, International News Service
Robert Estabrook, WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
Walker Stone, Chief editorial writer, Scripps-Howard newspapers
Ed Lahey, CHICAGO DAILY NEWS and other Knight newspapers
(He succeeded Paul Leach).
Joe Harsch, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Ben Grant, U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
Albert Clark, WALL STREET JOURNAL
Ted Koop, Columbia Broadcasting System
John Hightower, Associated Press
Jack Wilson, Cowles publications
Newbold Noyes, WASHINGTON STAR
Peter Edson, Newspaper Enterprise Association
Walter Kerr, NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE
Martin Hayden, Detroit NEWS

It is not yet certain if Fred Collins, PROVIDENCE JOURNAL; Tom Stokes, United Features; Richard Harkness, National Broadcasting Company; Marquis Childs, ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH; and Roscoe Drummond, NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, can attend. Also pending are answers from Pete Brandt, ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH; Mark Watson, BALTIMORE SUN; Robert Roth, PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN; and Bob Riggs, LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL.

Instead of calling it an "off-the-record" conference, Mr. Lindley and I agreed to call it a "firm background" conference, handled in the same way as was a previous one that Bill Lawrence arranged. That is, nothing said will be attributed to you or any government official; there will be no mention of any meeting or dinner; and nothing will be published until at least 48 hours after the conclusion of the dinner. Because this is a political year, it appears more necessary to have stringent understandings before the speaking starts. Lindley will make the announcement. (A year ago at this time Admiral Carney was sold down the river by not having such tight understandings.)

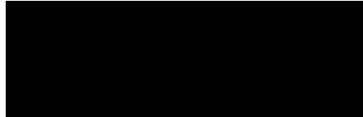
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Attached hereto are some possible questions.

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